

the article. One method of shielding the article from the electron beam is to use a blanking device that turns off the beam. Alternatively, a shutter device could be placed between the beam and the article to block the beam. As the support platform moves with the X-member, the electromagnetic coils associated with the X-direction linear motors also move. However, because the article is not being exposed during this time, the movement of the electromagnetic coils and/or any other magnetic materials have no effect on exposure performance. Also, because the article is not exposed by the electron beam as the stage is moved in the X-direction, low precision bearings not designed for fine and smooth movement may be used to facilitate positioning of the stage in the X-direction.

Page 16, lines 16-27, please amend the paragraph, as follows:

A reaction force canceling technique using a reaction frame is shown in Fig. 7. Frame **22** is flexibly attached to the main system structure (not shown). This allows for some small movement of the frame and stage, so that reactive forces applied from the magnet tracks **46, 76** of the stage motor, which cause small movements of the stage frame **22**, do not transmit through the frame **22** directly to the main system structure. Frame **22** is held in place partly by rods **201**, which in turn are connected to block **202**. Block **202** is connected to ground **211**. A seal or flexible bellows **203** is used to prevent leakage around rod **201**. Additional rods **204, 205** are used to secure the frame **22**. Rods **204, 205** are also attached to ground blocks (not shown) similar to **202**. The reaction forces from the motors are thus grounded resulting in minimal disturbance to the main system structure.